

**MINUTES OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
TENANT-LANDLORD COMMISSION**

October 18, 2007

Fairfax County Government Center,
12000 Government Center Pkwy.
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Conference Room #9
Vice-Chair Aho, presiding

Attendees:

Commissioners: Geier-Smith, Kocsis, McRae,
Rosier, Walde, Gomez

Absentees:

Liff

Staff Attending:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Cable Communications and Consumer
Protection
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief
Consumer Affairs
Vee Johnson, Staff Liaison
Consumer Affairs Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:37p.m. by Vice-Chair Aho.

Minutes

The September 20, 2007, meeting minutes were approved.

Reports

- **Chair's report-** No Vice-Chair report
- **Committee reports** - There were no Committee reports.

Staff reports

- The Spanish translation of the Tenant Resource Sheet is on target to be completed in October.
- Chief Jones reviewed the new meeting package. The Commissioners approved the format and information provided. Commissioner Gomez requested that the outreach calendar include the event time. Staff will add this information to the calendar.
- Chief Jones reviewed the monthly statistical reports. Most complaints received in September were maintenance or repair issues, and security deposit disputes.
- Director Liberman informed the Commissioners of the following DCCCP news:
 - News Release issued by Consumer Affairs alerting citizens about deceptive home loan solicitations mailed to county homeowners. This release was picked up by other media sources including Channel 5 news.
 - Washington Gas will issue refunds to county customers based on an order by the SCC. This settlement was reached based on testimony filed by the Utilities Branch of DCCCP. Fairfax County customers will save about \$6.4 million per year.
 - Cable Channel 16 was awarded 2nd place for "Excellence in Government Programming" by the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors.

Commission Matters

- The letter requesting recognition of Liaison Wagner remains under consideration. It is anticipated that action will be taken before the end of this year.
- No issues regarding the attendance record.
- No appointments have been made for the citizen and tenant member vacancies.

Old Business

1. Bylaws
 - County Attorney Jim McGettrick is reviewing the Bylaws. Staff will provide Commissioners with a copy of any changes or amendments suggested by Attorney McGettrick so the Bylaws can be considered at the November meeting.
2. Tenant-Landlord program for Cable Channel 16
 - The Channel 16 Advisory Committee did not have a report.
 - Commissioner Aho requested that a letter be sent to the Board of Supervisors informing them of the Consumer Focus program on Channel 16. Commissioner Aho will provide a draft letter to staff.

- Commissioner Aho would like for the Consumer Focus program to be available on the Tenant-Landlord web page. There is a link on the Consumer Affairs page to the Consumer Focus program.
- Commissioner Aho inquired if there was data regarding the number of Channel 16 viewers. Director Liberman informed that viewer data is not collected. The hits on Video on Demand can be tracked for the Consumer Focus program. Currently, the most watched programs on Channel 16 are the Board of Supervisors meetings and Jury Duty.
- Commissioners Rosier requested an electronic copy of the Channel 16 November schedule. Staff will forward a copy to all Commissioners.

3. Tenant-Landlord Commission Sign

- Staff expects to have a current list of all apartment complexes in Fairfax County completed by mid-December so the updated TLC sign can be distributed. Staff suggested that the TLC brochure, Tenant Resource Sheet, and Arbitration information be included in the mailing.

4. Letter regarding Trespass Towing ordinance

- The letter in support of the amendments proposed by the Trespass Towing Advisory Committee and the Regulation and Licensing Branch has been mailed to Chair Liff for her signature. There was discussion regarding changes to the ordinance since the presentation given at the July meeting. Staff will obtain an update from Branch Chief Reidenbach to determine if the ordinance amendments have been finalized before a letter is forwarded to the Board of Supervisors.

New Business

1. Tenant-Landlord Web page

- Commissioner Rosier did not have any suggestions or changes regarding the web site.
- Commissioner Aho requested that the TLC brochure be available on the web site. Liaison Johnson suggested that the brochure be updated before linked to the Web site since it hasn't been updated since March 2005. Director Liberman will have the brochure linked to the Web site.

2. Speakers for upcoming meetings

The Commissioners would like to hear from the following:

- County Strike Force Team
- Fairfax County Health Department
- Housing and Community Development Committee of the Board of Supervisors
- Redevelopment and Housing Authority

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:02p.m.